

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 – 10, 12 – 20 are pending. Claims 2 and 11 are cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn from consideration.

The Office action indicates claims 2, 5, 14, 17, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 19 and 20 are allowed.

The claim amendments are made without prejudice, and without disclaimer of the canceled and/or modified subject matter. Indeed, “[t]he language in the ... claims may not capture every nuance of the invention or describe with complete precision the range of its novelty.”¹ Thus, “[t]he scope of [the present claims] is not limited to [their] literal terms but instead embraces all equivalents to the claims described.”²

The amendment to claim 1 does not add new matter, because the amendment merely adds the features of claim 2 to claim 1. The amendment to claim 17 does not add new matter, because the claim has merely been rewritten in independent form, including all the features of claim 1.

The cancellation of claim 2 does not add new matter, because the cancellation does not affect the scope of any pending claims.

The objection to claims 2, 5, 14, 17, and 18 is moot in view of the amendments presented herewith.

The Office action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6 – 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16, citing 35 U.S.C §103(a). This rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 1, whereby the features of claim 2 are incorporated into claim 1.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any shortage in Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account 14.1437. Please credit any excess fees to such account.

The present application is in condition for allowance, and applicants respectfully request favorable action. In order to facilitate the resolution of any questions, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned by phone.

¹ *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd.*, 535 U.S. 722, 731, 122 S.Ct. 1831, 1837 (2002).

² *Festo*, 535 U.S. at 731, 122 S.Ct. at 1837.

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Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2009

Attorney Docket No. 8674.023.US0000
APV/MPB